

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Steven W. TEPPLER

Appl. No: 09/609,645

Filed: July 3, 2000

For: SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR  
PROVING DATES IN DIGITAL  
IMAGING FILES



Art Unit: 2766

Examiner: Not yet known

Atty. Docket No: 32801-164819

Customer No:



26694

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

RECEIVED

MAR 01 2002

Technology Center 2000

2131

#4  
3/5/02  
A.W.

**Information Disclosure Statement**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is an Information Disclosure Statement submitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 within the time specified under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

In order to comply with applicant's duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is notified of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application. One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

Both Fischer documents (U.S. Patent No. 5,136,643 and U.S. Patent No. 5,422,953) and the Haber et al. reissue document (U.S. Patent No. Re. 34,594) were cited as particularly relevant in "International Search Report" for International application No. PCT/US00/18259 (a copy of which is enclosed). International application No. PCT/US00/18259 claims priority to related applications noted at page 1 of the present application. Subsequent to the receipt of that search report, the "Written Opinion" of the IPEA/US was mailed on July 16, 2001 (a copy of which is likewise enclosed).

Applicant then filed a "Response to Written Opinion", in consideration of which the

IPEA/US then issued its "International Preliminary Examination Report", noting that all of the claims met the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(4). Copies of both documents are also enclosed for the Examiner's convenience. It should be noted that independent claim 1 of the International application is very similar to independent claim 1 of the present application. Moreover, independent claim 17 of the International application is likewise very similar to independent claim 9 of the present application.

The particular relevance of each of the other documents is discussed at length in the above-identified patent application at pages 14-16.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, and therefore no Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

In view of the above, no further translation or statement of relevance is required, and as all requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and all official guide lines pertaining to Information Disclosure Statements have been complied with, and it is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner consider the documents and make them of record.

Please charge any necessary fee or credit any overpayment in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement to Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2/27/2002



James R. Burdett

Registration No. 31,594

VENABLE

P.O. Box 34385

Washington, D.C. 20043-9998

Telephone: (202) 962-4800

Telefax: (202) 962-8300